Carswell, J. Ernest

[Plattsville, Ontario
Canada]

1905-1907

Plattsville, Ont., July I, I905.

Mr. Howland Wood,

Secy. A. N. A.,

Brookline, Mass.

Dear Sir,-

Some time ago I noticed your request to members of A. N. A. to write you regarding their collections, specialties, &c. I trust you will pardon my tardiness in complying with the request, though my small contribution will no doubt be somewhat uninteresting.

I commenced collecting a number of years ago while a boy at school, though my real collecting commenced only about 4 years ago. At that time I came across a couple nice specimens and straightway took the "fever." For a year or so I collected in general, but about two years ago sold my foreign "stuff" and since then have been specializing Canadians, Coins and Tokens,- no trade checks. Have acquired a good many of the rarer Canadians during that time, some that I regard as a little extra in their own way.

Have nice specimens of the Lesslie 2d., (B. 7I7) Sheaf of Wheat, (B. 9I6), Jamaica Barrel, (B.729), a few of the rarer Bouquet Sous, some very nice French coins and Jetons as B. 502, 509-I0-II, 5I4 and 5I5. Have also the pair Side View Half Pennies, I858 and I859, (B.524) and a nice penny of I838, (B. 523.) The penny and half of I838 came from the Hart Collection sold in New York some I0 years ago and are very nice specimens.

I believe my Jamaica Barrel to be one of the finest specimens in

existence. Most of these have from 2 to 4 letters in the word "Jamaica" completely worn away, many having only JAM remaining. The specimen in my cabinet is complete, though "AI" are somewhat weak. Experts have told me they never saw a perfect one. I have it here, and in this condition I regard it as almost unique. They are a good deal rarer than many people think.

Another of the rare ones is B. I008. Though crude and worn a good deal, a New York specialist writes "a more than ordinary specimen." Breton states only 3 or 4 of these known though probably 3 or 4 more have turned up since that time.

Though the collection is not large, only about 400, to me it is interesting, and contains many specimens that are in no wise "mean." But here I play a lone hand and at times the game grows rather dull but the addition of a specimen or two from time to time serves to keep the interest from entirely abating.

Have been a member of A. N. A. (524) for about three years, and enjoy the "Numismatist" very much. A great deal of very valuable information, indeed, and each issue comes as welcome as "pay day." Will be glad when your list of members, with specialties &c. is completed, as it will give all members an opportunity of becoming acquainted with each other and each other's special hobbies.

I sincerely hope all members have not been as slow in sending in the desired information as your humble servant, and that ere long the list may be ready for publication.

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Would be glad to have you send me a list of our Toronto, Ont., members and their specialties if possible, or any you know to be especially interested in the Canadian Series. This information will be thankfully received.

You might note again in the Numismatist if you will, my change of address from "66 Oak St., Galt, Ont," to Box I34, Plattsville, Ont, as some of my mail matter still goes to that address.

Thanks for the above favors.

I am enclosing you a photo of a few of my "specials" that will give you some idea of a few of them. Though only an amateur it is not too bad. Sorry the obverses are not shown, but they all have them.

Pardon the length of my epistle and the intrusion upon so much of your time, but I can safely promise that the offence will not be repeated very frequently.

Will be glad to hear fromyyou at your earliest convenience.,

With best wishes for your work in connection with the Association,

Very truly yours

J. E. Carswell,

Box I34, Plattsville, Ont., CANADA.

SUBJECT.....

FORM No. 12. 150m-5 06

The Bell Telephone Co. of Canada.

Address all Communications to
THE BELL TELEPHONE CO. OF CANADA.

London Ont. Agency, Nov 15 th. 1906

Mr. Howland Wood
93 Perry St.
Brookline, Mass.

Dear Sir.—

Thanks for your letter of 14th. Re "Blacksmiths"— I must confess my total ignorance of this Series, never having seen any, to my knowledge.— I have a couple in my collection that I have thought might be made by Some blacksmith, probably Dennis.— Got these among a lot of Canadians and kept them in my collection. Will enclose the two of them for your inspection. You can return them when you write.

Have noted your "ad" several times re "Ships. 6 & 6." series. Do this the Series that were in circulation Less Some Years ago, and are quite Common? Obv. Ships rev S. 6. & 6. B 997. Have 26 or 27 Varieties of these in my collection.— picked them out of odd lots now and again.

Have also about 20 Varieties of B 1012. mostly brass.— 9 & 10 strings Blank.— one or two in copper. Very slight difference in some of them

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The Bell Telephone Co. of Canada.

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THE BELL TELEPHONE CO. OF CANADA.

T. Agency, 190

Sorry to hear that Adams is "land up." Supposed he had plenty to navigate on, as I understood "Numismatics" was only a side-line with him, tho' perhaps a rather prominent side-line.

Have not run across any very active collectors here, will try and "land" any with whom I get in touch. Have some application blanks on hand that you sent me some time ago.

Am getting very near my "limit" on Canadians. Have nearly 500 varieties — no trade checks — and anything I want particularly now comes rather high. Sometimes I think of selling off and beginning over again but don't know that there is much money in a deal of that nature.

Suppose you have nothing in Canadian varieties to offer?

Will be glad to have your reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely Yours
J. L. Carmell

To Bell Tel. Co.
London, Can.

London, Eng. May 16th '07

Mr. Howland Wood,
Brookline, Mass.

Dear Sir.—

Your two letters came duly to hand & I can assure you I was glad to know the books of Blacksmiths reached you safely. These must represent a good deal of time and trouble. There certainly is a much larger variety of Blacksmiths than I ever dreamed of & some quite rare too. Have not decided to take them up as yet, but should I do so will be glad of your offer for a small start at a nominal price. You might give me a price on the specimen of B 998 you sent, tho' I'm afraid you fairly spoiled the sale by saying you had one in your collection in like condition. I really do not know what this one is worth, but would rather pay a stiff price for a good specimen. However, let me know what it is worth to you & I'll see you if it is worth the same to me. Think I told you I took a chance on the B 1008 struck over Aug. 1st 1875, had to put up $15.00 in effy.

for it, tho' it don't stand me that on a cash basis. Can take 1000 for the other one any day. Tho' this is not as good a specimen it is to me a really more interesting coin, proving as it does that these coins were really not struck in 1870. I have to thank you again for the information. Hope you are progressing favorably with the new list of members. Expect to be away 3 or 4 months this summer & will spend a couple weeks in each of the following places, Sarnia, Chatham, Stratford, St. Thomas, St. Marys, Wingham & possibly others & would be glad to meet any members of A.N.A. tho' afraid I shall have very little time to devote to the "hobby". Would like to have met with the boys in connection but am afraid the above arrangement will not permit. Your suggestion of Chicago looks good. Family Central & the members of C.N.A. would certainly endeavor to make an arrangements good. Would like to drop into one of their meetings. Had an invitation to become a corresponding member some time ago, but as I could

not see much in it but a contribution of Two Dollars toward the Society's funds I declined as politely a possible. But possibly I am rather too settish. No, I did not get Stiepenwalt's last Catalog. Had one some time ago but did not bid. Would like to have seen it. but it is too late now. There are a few of the later Dans I want. Have about 50 at present. Your collection is certainly large & must require a vast amount of knowledge to keep up with it. Mine numbers a few less than 500, all Canadians, but I have a few of the Good ones, but I find this Series takes up about all the time, labor and Cash I have to spare. Let me know price of the 998 you sent & if I can handle it I will. Have been offered a couple times but doubt his condition. Am open for offers on B 1008 over 1/2d 1825. Heintz McLaughlin & Montreal has this obv. with harp on rev. Seems to be rare. How are 8-String Vars. of 1012 progressing?

Yours Truly

J. E. Carmel

Same address as present.

To B. I. C. Lapsed.